THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. Certain complaints are received from the beneficiaries from time to time about unsatisfactory attendance of the officers and staff, shortage of medicines and non-functioning of medical equipments in some of CGHS dispensaries. There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspectioin, supervision and guidance by the Senior Officers of the CGHS. Necessary instructions are also issued from time to time to improve the punctuality and behaviour of officers and staff of CGHS dispensaries. A Task Force was also constituted on 28.12.2001 to conduct surprise checks of dispensaries under CGHS, Delhi. to look into the aspects of punctuallty, behaviour and availability of medicines. Instructions have also been issued to constitute special Inspection Teams in other CGHS covered cities as well.

At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adeuqate, but inconvenience to the beneficiaries on this account is minimised by purchasing mediicines from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS. Steps are in hand to procure essential and frequently used medicines at the earliest.

Certain medical equipment like X-Ray machines in some CGHS Dispensaries/Polyclinics are not in a working condition and their repair is being attended to.

Mala-fide propaganda by Pakistan

†*2. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to ban PTV apart from other measures to counter the mala-fide propaganda by Pakistan;

(b) whether a special group comprising high officials, constituted for the purpose by Government has submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to ban PTV, at present. Under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 1995, a Committee has been constituted to look into the violations of the Programme Code, prescribed under the said Act and Rules framed there-under. Necessary action is taken on the recommendations of the Committee, from time to time. It is the continuous endavour of the Government to counter propaganda made by Pak TV through suitable programmes on DD/AIR. Under a Special Package, extension and upgradation of Doordarshan's infrastructure, to increase DD's coverage in the border areas, has also been under taken.

Increase in heart diseases

*3. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the heart disease scenario in the country is alarming and getting worse every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the treatment of heart disease is so costly that the common man is not in a position to meet the expenses and is left to die;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to give free medical treatment for heart disease; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, it is a fact that heart disease scenario in India is alarming. The situation seems to be worsening because of rapid urbanization and adverse life style. Heart disease especially coronary heart disease is on the rise and is also occurring in younger persons (below 40 years of age). These manifest as angina, heart attack and sudden death. The reasons attributed to rise in coronary heart diseases are high fat and cholesterol rich diet, smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure,